a proportion of Plan outlays for Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan equivalent to the proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 24.56% of the total population as per 1991 census.

(b) Yes. Sir. 26 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. and various Central Ministries/ Departments. have allocated funds under the Special Component Plan and/or the Tribal Sub-Plan. However. in many cases these allocations have been significantly lower than envisaged in the Government guidelines.

(c) Does not arise.

Consumer Courts

*239. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of consumer courts in the National Capital Region of Delhi as on date and locati on thereof.

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more new consumer courts:

(c) if so. the time by which these are likely to be set up: and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) (a) At present one State Consumer Despute Redressal Commission at Vikas Bhavan. I P. Estate. New Delhi. two District Consumer Dispute Redressal Fora. (i) in Tis Hazari Court. Delhi and (ii) in ITI Institutional Area. Mehrauli. New Delhi are functioning in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) to (d). The Conusmer Protection Act 1986 provides for setting up of additional District Fora depending upon the work load. However. the responsibility for creating additional District Forum rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Restriction of Ration

*240. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to restrict ration through PDS only to the poor people:

(b) if so. the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government also propose to bring down the prices of items being sold through the Public Distribution System:

(d) if so. the extent to which the prices of rice and wheat are likely to come down:

(e) whether the Government have formulated any plan to identify the poor for this purpose. and

(f) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f). Government proposes to streamline the Public Distribution System with its focus on the poor. At the Conference of the Chief Ministers held on 4th-5th July. 1996. the matter was discussed. The Conference welcomed the proposal to streamline the Public Distribution System with focus on the population Below Poverty Line and issue of foodgrains to them at specially subsidised prices. The details are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

HRA to Employees of NSCFDC

1720. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation are entitled to House Rent Allowance.

(b) if so. the details alongwith the governing rules thereof:

(c) whether it is a fact that such rules have been made with retrospective effect resulting in huge deduction from salaries of the employees:

(d) if so. the reasons therefor.

(e) whether employees are entitled to HRA even if their spouses reside in Government accommodation either allotted or otherwise. and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes. Sir

(b) Employees of the Corporation are entitled to House Rent Allowance as per the rates given below :

Station	HRA % on Basic
Delhi. Bombay Calcutta & Bangalore	30%
Other A Class Cities	25%
Other cities	15%

(c) and (d). No such rules have been made with retrospective effect resulting in deduction from employees' salary. However. HRA already paid to 24 out of 122 employees. who were actually not entitled to draw HRA as per rules for residing/sharing government accommodation. has been regularised and necessary adjustments were made in their cases.

(e) and (f). No employee is entitled to HRA if their spouses reside in government accommodation.

[Translation]

Posts and Telegraph Office Building in Rajasthan

1721. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices working at present in Rajasthan and the break up of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices out of them which are functioning in departmentally owned buildings and rented buildings separately, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of new Post Offices, sub Post Offices and Telegraph Offices likely to be opened this year in the State, district-wise;

(c) the proposed scheme to provide postal facility in every Panchayat-headquarters in the State; and

(d) the number of Housing colonies for Posts and Telegraph employees in the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :

(a) **Department of Post**

There are 55 Head Post Offices and 1387 sub-Post Offices functioning in Rajasthan at present. Details of district-wise and category-wise break-up of these post offices functioning in departmentally owned buildings and rented buildings is given in the enclosed statement I.

Department of Telecom

The number of Telegraph offices working at present in Rajasthan is 47. The break-up of Telegraph offices which are functioning in departmentally owned buildings and rented buildings separately, district-wise and category-wise is given in the enclosed statement II.

(b) **Department of Post**

It is proposed to open 5 extra departmental branch post offices and 10 departmental Sub-Post Offices under Annual Plan 1996-97 in Rajasthan. The district-wise targets are not allocated at post offices are opened keeping in view the norm-based justification and merits of each case.

Department of Telecom.

Regarding opening of new Telegraph Offices, no target is fixed as Telegraph facility is provided on demand and justification of traffic.

(c) There is no specific plan to provide post office facility in every panchayat headquarters in the state of Rajasthan. Post Offices are progressively opened under Annual Plan Schemes subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources. However, preference is given to those Grame Panchayat villages where there are no post offices at present. Facility of daily delivery of mails is available in all the villages of Rajasthan.

(d) **Department of Post**

Details regarding the number of housing colonies for employees of Department of Post in Rajasthan, district-wise is given at statement III.

Department of Telecom.

The total number of Housing colonies for Telegraph employees in Rajasthan is 58. The details of these housing colonies district-wise is given at statement IV.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Post Offices in Rajasthan functioning in departmentally owned buildings and reneted buildings district-wise and category-wise

S.No.	Name of District	Post Offices in Departmental buildings		Post Offices in rented buildings	
		Head Post Offices	Departmental sub-post offices	Head Post offices	Departmental post offices
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ajmer	4	12	-	94
2.	Alwar	3	07	-	61
3.	Banswara	1	01	-	20
4.	Baran	-	01	-	15
5.	Bharatpur	3	04	1	46
6.	Barmer	1	05	-	31